(b) So far no proven digital techology is available for rural environment in India. Therefore, Analog MARR is being procured.

Telephone connection to registered societies in Hazipur and Loni, Distt. Ghaziabad

17. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants who have registered their societies name for the allotment of NOYT category telephone connection in U.P. particularly Hazipur, Loni, District Ghaziabad during the period on April, 1995 to till date, name-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the MTNL office, Ghaziabad, U.P. have released OB numbers during the month of February, 19% but could not installed telephone connections so far; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the connections would be installed in the name of registered societies in Loni, Ghazibad, U.P.?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (c) The information is being collected from the Field Units and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Fire at Anna Salai Telephone Exchange in Chennai

18. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a devastating fire at the Anna Salai Telephone Exchange in Chennai recently;

(b) whether as a result of this fire the, telecommunication network in most areas has been virtually paralysed;

(c) the extent of damage caused to the sophisticated telecommunication equipments;

(d) whether any enquiry in this regard has been made and if so with what resuls; and

(e) the measures Government propose to take to protect the public utilities from fire and other major hazards?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. on 23.6.97 a major fire took place in Anna Road Telephone Exchange Complex in Chennai.

(b) No, Sir. The communication was disrupted only partially. About 32,357 telephone lines and level "1" services (Police-100, Fire-101, Ambulance-102 etc.) were affected due to fire. However, the level "1" services were restored immediately on 24.6.97 on war footings. All telephone lines have also been restored by 15.7.97.

(c) Total loss suffered on account of this fire is estimated to the tune of Rs. 6.5 crores (approx.).

(d) Yes, Sir. Technical & Development Circle Jabalpur is investigating the cause of fire and the enquiry is in final stage.

(e) Standing instructions on the subject have been reiterated to all the field units for strict compliance to avoid recurrance of such incidents in future.

Deterioration of services rendered by MTNL, Delhi

19. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance and services rendered by MTNL, Delhi during the past few months have deteriorated;